

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 06564 291606Z

43

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /076 W
----- 071237

P R 291535Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1209

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCPAC

CINCUSNAVEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 06564

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MV

S/UBJECT: BRITISH WITHDRAWAL FROM RAF GAN

REF: A) STATE 99687; B) COLOMBO 1387; C) COLOMBO 1528

L. EMBOFF SHARED REFTEL B WITH FCO HEAD OF SOUTH ASIA
DEPARTMENT O'NEILL APRIL 27 AND INFORMED LATTER WE WOULD
BE INTERESTED IN BRITISH COMMENTS ON GAN AT US/UK INDIAN
OCEAN TALKS.

2. DURING DISCUSSIONS APRIL 27 AND 28' O'NEILL SAID PRO-
POSAL AGREED TO JANUARY 19 REGARDING HAND-OVER OF AIR-
FIELD WAS CONTAINED IN A MINISTRY OF DEFENSE "MINUTE"
WHICH WAS INITIALED AND REQUIRED NO FURTHER FORMAL RATI-
FICATION. O'NEILL SAID FCO HAD INSTRUCTED BRITISH EM-
BASSY IN WASHINGTON TO HAND COPY OF THIS "MINUTE" TO DE-
PARTMENT. FOLLOWING THE JANUARY VISIT, MANIKU CAME
THROUGH LONDON AGAIN MARCH 3 AND RAISED WITH FCO AND ODM
OFFICIALS GOM PROPOSAL TO TURN GAN INTO TOURIST RESORT.
MANIKU ESTIMATED THAT THIS WOULD COST BETWEEN 6 AND 7
MILLION POUNDS STERLING AND SOUGHT QRANT AID FROM HMG.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LONDON 06564 291606Z

HMG AGREED TO SEND A MISSION OF EXPERTS WITHIN THE NEXT

COUPLE OF MONTHS TO LOOK THE PROJECT OVER, BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO FURTHER AGREEMENT SINCE THEN.

3. WITH REGARD TO EXCLUSION OF THIRD COUNTRY USE, O'NEILL NOTED THAT THE JANUARY 19 "MINUTE" QUOTES MANIKU AS STATING THAT 1965 AGREEMENT "WOULD NO LONGER HAVE ANY PRACTICAL CONTENT" AFTER RAF DEPARTURE. HOWEVER, MANIKU DID NOT USE STRONGER TERMS SUCH AS "HAVE NO EFFECT", AND CONFIRMED GOM "HAD NO INTENTION" OF GRANTING DEFENSE FACILITIES TO ANY THIRD COUNTRY. HMG INSISTED AGREEMENT CONTINUED IN FORCE. O'NEILL SAID MANIKU AND HIS COLLEAGUES ARE INTERESTED PRIMARILY IN OPERATING THE PROPOSED GAN RESORT ON A PRIVATE ENTERPRISE BASIS WHICH WOULD GIVE THEM A REMUNERATIVE RETURN ON THEIR OWN INVESTMENTS (PRESUMABLY THIS WILL BE DEPENDENT ON GRANT AID FUNDS FROM HMG AND OTHER SOURCES TO CONVERT THE INFRASTRUCTURE). O'NEILL STATED THAT ENTERPRISE MANIKU AND HIS COLLEAGUES ENVISAGE WOULD NOT SQUARE WITH USE OF GAN AS A SOVIET BASE. HE NOTED THAT AT THE END OF MARCH THE GOM REFERRED TO THE PROHIBITION AGAINST THIRD COUNTRY USE WHEN IT TURNED DOWN A SOVIET REQUEST FOR A VISIT BY A SOVIET HYDROGRAPHIC VESSEL. O'NEILL SAID THE UK ASSESSMENT IS THAT THE GOM WANTS TO KEEP THE SOVIET UNION AT ARMS' LENGTH.

4. WE WILL HAVE COPY OF JANUARY 19 "MINUTE" AS WELL AS COPY OF 1965 AGREEMENT AVAILABLE FOR US DEL TO NEXT WEEK'S US/UK INDIAN OCEAN TALKS, AT WHICH HMG IS NOW PRIMED TO EXPECT FURTHER QUESTIONS FROM US. COPY OF JANUARY 19 "MINUTE" POUCHED TO EMBASSY COLOMBO.

ARMSTRONG

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, MILITARY BASE CLOSINGS, AIR FORCE, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LONDON06564
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760163-0422
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760410/aaaaahsf.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 99687, 76 COLOMBO 1387, 76 COLOMBO 1528
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <13 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRITISH WITHDRAWAL FROM RAF GAN
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MV, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006